

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Title is amended by the present response to be more clearly descriptive of the claimed invention.

Claims 11-19 are pending in this application. Claims 1-10 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 11-19 are added by the present response. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,111,280 to Gardner et al. (herein "Gardner"). Claims 3 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,084,284 to Adamic, Jr. Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable Gardner as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. patent 6,601,452 B2 to Murata et al. (herein "Murata"). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 1032(a) as unpatentable over Gardner as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. patent 6,229,165 B1 to Sakai et al. (herein "Sakai"). Claims 5, 6, 8, and 9 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

Initially, applicant gratefully acknowledges the early indication of the allowable subject matter of claims 5, 6, 8, and 9. With respect to that indication of allowable subject matter the present response sets forth new claims 11-19 for examination. New independent claim 11 corresponds to previously pending dependent claim 6 rewritten in independent form and new independent claim 13 corresponds to previously pending dependent claim 9 rewritten in independent form. The outstanding Office Action indicated that such subject matter was allowable. Thus, new independent claims 11 and 13, and claims 12 and 14-19 dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

Applicant and applicant's representative also wish to thank Examiner Soward for the interview granted applicant's representative on April 13, 2004.

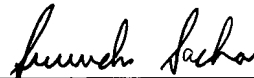
The present response is submitted to place the present application in condition for allowance at this time by only presenting claimed subject matter indicated as allowable as in outstanding Office Action.

That is, with respect to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Gardner, the rejection of Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Gardner in view of Murata, and the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Gardner in view of Sakai, those rejections are obviated by the present response as those claims are canceled by the present response.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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